

REMARKS

Claims 15, 16 and 18-22 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 15 has been amended and claims 21 and 22 have been added. Support for the shapes of claim 15 can be found in paragraph 28 and Figs. 1-3B which illustrate, for example, a conical trapezoid shape (i.e., a container shape that is a tapered cylindrical shape with a tip of the bag-like members covered with a disc-cap).

The specification was objected to due to an informality. By this Amendment, the specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claims 1-14 and 17 have been cancelled and claim 15 has been amended in view of the Examiner's helpful comments. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over DE 2736433 (DE'433). The rejection of claims 1-14 and 17 has been rendered moot by their cancellation. The rejection of claims 15, 16 and 18-20 is respectfully traversed.

DE'433 fails to disclose a manufacturing method of a filter comprising the step of laminating fibers over the forming surface of the forming die, wherein the forming die is a permeable meshed die, the fibers are semi-molten when laminated over the forming surface of the die, the container shape includes at least one of a conical shape, polyangular conical shape, semispherical shape and a conical trapezoid shape as recited in claim 15.

DE'433 discloses a filter with a plurality of bag-like shapes that are offset against each other (Figs. 3,4). The filter comprises a woven fabric and the bag-like shapes include triangular, rectangular, hexangular or circular cross-sections (Figs. 1-4). Furthermore, the whole filter surface can be manufactured as one single part by casting or pressing. Fig. 3 of

DE'433 shows circular shapes juxtaposed in one direction, wherein the distance g of the shapes is in the range of 0.2 - 1.5 of the diameter of the shapes and Fig. 4 shows a plurality of circular shapes interconnected by walls or racks.

However, DE'433 fails to disclose the step of laminating fibers over the forming surface of the forming die, wherein the forming die is a permeable meshed die and the fibers are semi-molten when laminated over the forming surface of the die. DE'433 simply states that the filter layer is of a finely porous or finely fibrous material. Furthermore, DE'433 only deals with paper filters that are manufactured by casting or pressing. As such, DE'433 fails to provide any disclosure with regard to the lamination of fibers. Furthermore, DE'433 fails to disclose a container shape that includes at least one of a conical shape, polyangular conical shape, semispherical shape and a conical trapezoid shape.

Accordingly, DE'433 fails to disclose all of the features recited in Applicants' claim 15. In addition, claims 16 and 18-20 recite additional features of the invention and are also believed to be allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 15 and for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and claims 2, 4, 9, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP A 08-38834. The rejection of claims 1-14 and 17 has been rendered moot by their cancellation. The rejection of claims 15, 16 and 18-20 is respectfully traversed.

JP '834 fails to disclose a manufacturing method of a filter having a filter portion with a plurality of bag-like members, each bag-like member having a container shape and each bag-like member having an opening that is disposed a predetermined distance away from another opening, and a supporting member which supports a periphery of the opening of the bag-like members and connects each of the bag-like members comprising the step of

preparing a forming die provided with a forming surface which is formed in a shape corresponding to that of one side of the filter as recited in claim 15.

JP'834 fails to disclose Applicants' claimed invention because JP'834 only discloses a filter with a wavy board as discussed on page 4 of Applicants' specification. Accordingly, JP'834 fails to disclose the shape of Applicants' filter or forming die because JP'834 suffers deficiencies which Applicants' claim 15 overcomes with their filter as recited. JP'834 also fails to disclose a container including at least one of a conical shape, polyangular conical shape, semispherical shape and a conical trapezoid shape.

In view of the foregoing, JP'834 fails to disclose Applicants' manufacturing method as recited in claim 15. In addition, claims 16 and 18-20 recite additional features of the invention and are also believed to be allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 15 and for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 15, 16 and 18-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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